GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2683
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
IMPORT OF MERCURY
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the cost and quantity of mercury imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is proposed to phase out the use of mercury in medical instruments as it is a hazardous substance;

(c) if so, the details therefor;

(d) whether any alternatives to mercury have been developed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) As per information received from Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, the cost and quantity of mercury imported during the last three years is given below:-

Quantity in thousands kg. Value in Rs. Lakhs

HS Code	8054000
2004-2005	174.82
2005-2006	155.43
2006-2007	220.42
2004-2005	929.02
2005-2006	1,165.40
2006-2007	11,382.59

(b) to (e) At present, there is no proposal for phasing out of use of mercury in medical Instruments. However, some of the units have started manufacturing digital thermometer based on sensors.